

6/19/13
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Reserve

PROCEDURE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF
COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL FORESTS
IN ARKANSAS

July 7, 1944

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Extension Forester, ArkansasObtain the Lease

The first step in the procedure for establishing a county 4-H council forest is for the home demonstration agent to assist the county home demonstration council, or the county and home demonstration agents to assist the county 4-H council, in obtaining a lease, or title by gift, to a small area of land, not less than 1 acre, preferably located along a main highway. This should be open land without timber or reproduction.

After the site has been selected and the owner has agreed to lease the land to the council, the lease should be properly drawn up and should include the following:

1. Legal description of the land, that is, bearings and distances with tie line, also numbers of section, township, and range.
2. Clause: (example) Description for 1 acre along U. S. Highway No. 70 which E. E. Raines leases to the president of the Pulaski County Home Demonstration Council for the purpose of establishing a "demonstration forest" from seedling to sawlog - trees 14 inches in diameter, breast high. When this acre ceases to be used for the purpose for which it was given, title to the acre will revert to the original owner.

The lease should then be recorded at the courthouse, the council paying for the recording, and the receipt of the payment should be made a part of the secretary's minutes.

Order Seedlings

Seedlings for the planting, 1,000 per acre, should then be ordered from the Arkansas Forestry Commission. The council treasury should pay for the seedlings.

Set the Date for Planting

The extension agents and the county council set the date for the planting ceremony. All county club members should be notified of this date by letter.

Previous to the Planting Date

Previous to the planting date, the following should be arranged. The area should be marked off in rows, 6 1/2 feet apart both ways, that is, checked like corn rows. An easy way to do this is to use a plow, plowing just deep enough to mark the ground.

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The first row should be marked the "official row," and the succeeding rows should be marked for the individual clubs in the county council. These rows can be marked by a small tag on a stake. Arrangements should be made for the help of about 25 able-bodied 4-H Club boys; also for 20 mattocks or grubbing hoes, 8 buckets, 30 wooden tampers (to tamp the soil tight against roots as seedling is planted), and delivery of seedlings in proper time. A map or chart of the area, showing the 6-1/2- by 6-1/2-foot spacing, should also be prepared beforehand, a dot indicating the location of each seedling to be planted.

Day of the Planting

For the day of the planting, a real effort should be made to have all club members in the county present. Each member present will plant his or her seedling, and the location and identity of the seedling will be indicated on the map.

"Official Row"

The first seedling in the "official row" should be planted by the extension forester as a demonstration of the proper technique of digging the hole and planting the seedling. In a home demonstration council forest, the home demonstration agent should plant the next seedling. In the 4-H council forest, the county and home demonstration agents should plant the next seedlings. Then should follow the person who leased the land, county council officers, chairmen, and others, each planting his or her seedling in turn.

After "Official Row" Is Planted

After the "official row" is planted, the individual club rows should start together. The organization here is: One 4-H Club boy digging the holes in each row with a mattock, followed by that row's club members planting their seedlings and using a tamper. Extra 4-H Club boys will distribute seedlings, carrying them in buckets half filled with water to keep the roots wet, and dropping them in the holes in front of the planters. The planting order in each row should be: President, vice president, secretary, chairmen, and members. Some club member in each row should keep the names of the club members in the proper order of their planting. Later, all names should be put on the map over a small circle around the original dot in the proper club row. This map should be hung in the extension office for reference.

Completing the Planting

When everyone present has planted a seedling, then the rest of the seedlings should be planted for absent club members. These seedlings are indicated on the map with a small square to distinguish them from the circles which indicate the people who actually planted their own seedlings.

Fence the "Forest"

With the "forest" now established, it is very important to fence the forest for protection from stock.

Prevent Forest Fires

To preserve the "forest" it is vital that forest fires absolutely be prevented.